

MINNESOTA PUBLIC LIBRARY COMMISSION

LIBRARY NOTES AND NEWS, No. 5.

ST. PAUL, DECEMBER, 1905.

MARGARET J. EVANS, Northfield, *Chairman.*
GRATIA A. COUNTRYMAN, Minneapolis,

Secretary.

CYRUS NORTHRUP, Minneapolis.

JOHN W. OLSEN, St. Paul.

WARREN UPHAM, St. Paul.

CLARA F. BALDWIN, *Librarian.*

MRS. KAREN M. JACOBSON, *Ass't Librarian.*

MINNESOTA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION.

The thirteenth annual meeting of the Minnesota Library Association was held at the Red Wing Public Library on October 12, 13 and 14, 1905. Thirty-seven persons registered, including 30 librarians, 3 trustees, 1 publisher, 2 binders, and 1 representative of the Library Bureau. The papers given at the meeting are for the most part printed in this issue of *Library Notes and News*, so that all comments on the papers, and reviews of their contents have been omitted from this report.

The first meeting was called to order at 8 p. m. by Miss Countryman, president of the Association. Mr. W. F. Kunze of the Red Wing Library Board extended a most cordial welcome to the visiting librarians, which was followed by the president's address on "The library as a social center." The address was full of interest not only to the librarians but to the representative audience of Red Wing people. As the paper presented the theoretical and ideal side of the question, the discussion which followed gave accounts of some practical experiments in the way of club-rooms connected with the library. Mrs. Marie E. Brick told of an attempt to open a smoking-room in the St. Cloud Public Library

which had started with some success, but had later been abandoned as a failure. Reports were read from the librarians of Cloquet and Marshall, where similar experiments had been tried, and Miss Poirier of Duluth told of practical work in their library. The experiments seemed to show that smoking-rooms had no proper connection with libraries, and that club-rooms could not be maintained without special supervision. At the close of this session the audience adjourned to the main library room where an informal reception was held.

At 9 o'clock, Friday morning, the convention was called to order. The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved and committees were announced by the president as follows:

Resolutions—Miss van Buren, Mrs. Lamb, Miss Poirier. Nominations—Miss Baldwin, Miss McGraw, Miss Cloud.

The first paper of the morning was given by Mrs. Karen M. Jacobson, assistant librarian of the Library Commission, on "Book selection and buying." She spoke of the many aids recently published, and suggested the most practical ways of using them. The discussion was led by H. W. Wilson of Minneapolis, who emphasized the business side of book-selection, the necessity of watching prices, and taking advantage of second-hand and auction sales.

Mrs. McPherson of the Stillwater Library read a paper on "County extension," and Miss van Buren gave a report of what had been accomplished in Steele county. The new law authorizing the plan was also discussed.

Mr. Warren Upham of the State Historical Society gave the Association an interesting

account of the early history of Red Wing and urged that every librarian should collect and preserve all available material for local history, such as church and society reports, programs, etc.

Mr. John E. King, State Librarian, spoke on the distribution of public documents in Minnesota and promised hearty co-operation to those faint-hearted librarians who have for years tried unsuccessfully to obtain Minnesota state documents.

Miss Lydia M. Poirier, Librarian of the Duluth Public Library, gave the last paper of the morning on "Popular advertising," and the discussion was led by Miss Sterner of the Winona Public Library.

The afternoon meeting was devoted to the story hour. Miss Margaret Palmer of Rochester gave an able paper on "Story-telling for children," which she treated from the teacher's as well as the librarian's standpoint. Several of the Red Wing teachers who were present gave personal experiences and an interesting discussion followed.

A troop of Red Wing children, conducted by Mr. Kunze, assembled at 3 o'clock and formed an interested audience for Miss Eleanor Gladstone of Carleton College Library, who recounted several of the Uncle Remus stories. These were listened to with breathless interest by the children who insisted on more when her repertoire had been exhausted. Miss Countryman responded to the plea with two stories, "as told by Miss Bryant," who recently lectured in Minneapolis. These were greeted with applause from both old and young and the session broke up with much merriment. Every one went for the drive which the citizens of Red Wing had planned for the pleasure of the Association, and the Reformatory and pottery works were visited, where much of interest was discovered.

The evening session was held at the Sheldon Memorial Auditorium which was taxed to its seating capacity by an enthusiastic audience to greet President Cyrus Northrop of the University of Minnesota. A short musical program preceded the address.

President Northrop spoke of some of the men who have played important parts in the history of our country, paying a beautiful tribute to Lincoln, and dwelling upon the work of President Cleveland, and lastly President Roosevelt. The keynote of the address was the supreme importance of high ideals and honor in public life.

At 9 o'clock Saturday morning the business session was held. The committee on resolutions presented resolutions of thanks to the citizens of Red Wing and especially to the library board and librarian for their cordial hospitality and co-operation; to the president and officers of the Association for their efficient work; and to President Northrop for his inspiring address. The nomination committee proposed the following officers for the ensuing year, who were elected on a unanimous ballot:

President—Miss Maude van Buren, Owatonna.

Vice President—Miss Lydia M. Poirier, Duluth.

Secretary—Miss Elizabeth Clute, St. Paul.

Treasurer—Miss Edith M. Pye, Northfield.

Invitations for the next meeting were received from Austin, Fairmont and Rochester, which were referred to the officers.

The rest of the morning was devoted to the question box and informal discussion around the tables in the main reading-room; this session was in many ways one of the most interesting and profitable of all.

The exhibits aroused unusual interest. The walls of the audience-room were lined with interesting posters loaned by the librarians of Owatonna and Duluth. Exhibits of binding were stationed in the lower hall, and the Commission exhibit occupied the room at the foot of the stairs. This consisted of the various lists and aids mentioned in Mrs. Jacobson's paper on Book-selection, as well as various printed matter which can be obtained from the Commission. The books in the "Miniature standard library," listed in the October number of *Library Notes and News*, made an interesting collection, and a selection of books for children was specially attractive. A dozen of the original drawings for "Miss Muffet's Christmas party" had been loaned by the artist, and a number of the books whose characters are guests at the party were also displayed, making a charming shelfful of books which every child should know.

A large measure of the success and pleasure of the meeting is owing to the efforts of the librarian and trustees of the Red Wing Library. The library had been made extremely attractive by the addition of rugs, plants, autumn leaves and cut flowers, and an atmosphere of warmest hospitality enveloped the guests throughout their entire

stay. The programs were also furnished by the board, in an attractive and artistic form, making a delightful souvenir of the meeting.

Notes From The Question Box.

What shall be done with the child who devours a book each day? Mr. Kunze reported that he had kept a careful account of the reading of his school children, and found that the omnivorous readers were those who did the best work in school. Others felt that while in some cases personal influence could be exerted, it was generally a matter which the librarian could not regulate, but which should be called to the attention of parents.

How many libraries issue only one book on a card? Very few of the smaller libraries have tried the two-book system, feeling that they had not enough books to supply the demand, but Winona, Owatonna, Stillwater, Mankato, Rochester and St. Peter all issue two books at a time, and in some of these libraries the reader who wants books for serious reading can take an unlimited number and keep them as long as he likes provided there is no other demand. The general tendency is to remove all barriers, and make it as easy as possible for the public to get the full benefit of the library.

How may books be loaned by one library to another? The Minneapolis and St. Paul libraries loan books to any public library in the state on request. For example, suppose a student in a small town desires a book on the Salvation Army which his own library cannot furnish, the larger library will send the book in care of the town public library, the express or postage to be paid by the individual who borrows the book. In many cases this plan could be carried out between the small libraries. If some one asks for a book on a special subject which the library cannot afford to buy, drop a postal to the nearest library and see if they have the book. The borrower is usually willing to pay cost of transportation for such material.

THE LIBRARY AS A SOCIAL CENTER.

BY MISS GRATIA COUNTRYMAN.

Librarian, Minneapolis Public Library.

During these latter days of enormous library activity, we have been conscientiously examining the functions of a library, we have

been trying all sorts of methods to popularize it, to advertise it. We have asked for and listened to the criticism of outsiders and by the light thrown upon it through this prism, have separated our work into its elemental parts, and seen its various hues.

We used to erect a library as an altar to the gods of learning; now, to use Mr. Dana's words, we erect it as an altar to the "Gods of good fellowship, joy and learning." So you see, our ideals are constantly rising, and our horizons ever broadening, and our work continually increasing, both in extent and in depth. We might well have considered our hands fairly full, to have dealt alone with this god of learning, but we find ourselves embracing the opportunity for additional service to the gods of good fellowship and joy.

It might do us good to consider to-night what we are doing for the cause of learning, what the library has done to increase serious reading and study, and how it may further the educational work of the world. This question is ever present with us, and can stand any amount of discussion. But it is the gods of good fellowship and joy that we are discussing to-night, the library not as a center of learning, but as a social center.

We are dealing with a small crowd of people whom we call "our public." Who are the public? Why, you and I, and my family and your family, and others just like us. They want just the same things that we do, and to be accommodated in just the same way that we do. The public is no indefinite, intangible somebody, it is just "we."

We talk about the people being hungry for books and information. Have you found it so? Then why do we have free libraries and free schools? People are willing to sacrifice for something that they are very hungry for. Do you hunger and thirst to read Homer and Shakespeare, and Emerson and Arnold, and good histories and literature? Do you, when you are tired after a day's work, take home a scientific work, or a treatise on civics? No, you are just a little sample of the public, and you think you need to read a pleasant, entertaining, restful book. You aren't hungry for information, and as a matter of fact, the person who delights in study and has a fine taste for the best in literature has one of the "gifts extremely rare." Most of us are practical, every-day working people, with a very limited time for reading, and this public whom we serve is just like us. A few of them will love to

read the best, many of them will want information at intervals, a large proportion want recreational reading, and the vast majority use the library not at all. Now, the former who want and love the library, you need not be troubled about. They will naturally come to the library, and you will find pleasure in serving them. But these latter classes who either come for pleasure, or come not at all must be drawn and held through the social instincts and through their desire for pleasure.

Every human being must have social life. We seek company and companionship with whom we can find mutual pleasure. We may find it in friendly gatherings, social clubs, or music or conversation or games, but social pleasure of some sort is sought by all of us, great and small, in town and country alike. In the city there is usually plenty of opportunity; I might almost say that there is a surfeit and one must pick and choose. But in the towns and villages it is often different; good amusements and profitable pleasures are not always to be had, and being social beings, the social craving is satisfied with whatever means may be at hand. Young people especially cannot isolate themselves, or live unto themselves. Just where is the library going to stand in this matter? Is there anything which we can do to satisfy these natural desires and to enter more vitally into the lives of the people? This is the question to take home and think about. As individuals we are coming to have an enormous interest in other human lives, there is a sense of social obligation upon us; we have come to know that personal righteousness is not all that is required of us, but that we must help to realize the social righteousness. Likewise the library has the similar duty of being all things to all men. It is no longer simply a repository of books; it is exactly what Mr. Carnegie calls it, the cradle of democracy, filled with the democratic spirit, and it endeavors as far as circumstances permit to minister to all the needs of the community in which it dwells. The library stands for progress, the progress of its town, and this does not mean increasing the material prosperity of the people, though that may follow, but it chiefly means the raising of moral, social and intellectual standards of all its people, and helping men and women to be more effective in every way. The library does not exist for one side only of the life of the people, but for every side, and if it fails

to provide for those who seek amusement, it shirks a duty and renounces a privilege. The sooner we unveil the "gods of joy and good fellowship" in our library the better, the sooner we make the library a center for all the activities among us that make for social efficiency the better.

Of course there are natural limitations to the kind of work which a library can do, and in helping to further the spirit of good fellowship and to furnish pleasure, we must keep within such limits as are consistent with the spirit of a library. The library can appeal to people in other ways than by books alone, as we shall consider later, yet as books are our chief tools, it is natural to think first of giving pleasure by that method. One of our chiefest ways of late years has been through the children's room. The children get book instruction and supplementary reading and enforced book interests, all of which is needed for their development, in the school-room, but in the children's room at the library furnished especially for them, with low tables, picture books and low shelves containing fairy stories and all their favorite authors, they settle down to satisfy their own especial individual tastes. Then there is the story hour, of which we shall hear to-morrow. Many of the children have never learned the pleasure of reading. They do not belong to cultured homes and are unaccustomed to the presence of books. Many of them never heard a Mother Goose jingle or a nonsense verse, and a book is an unlearned delight. But what child even of this kind does not love to hear stories and listening breathlessly would not come again and again. Some way, it seems as if we could not discharge our social obligation until we had gone into the by-ways and hedges and gathered in these scraps of society, and taught them the pleasures of a book. The children once acquainted with the library will always count it among their friends, and it will forever remain a social center to them. We grown-ups are not so different from the children; we, too, like a story, and we, too, want to read the things that cheer and entertain us. We agreed a moment ago to leave the serious books for the infrequent study hour and to spend our leisure evenings with the fascinating novel. Well, I do not know of any better way to give amusement and pleasure than to furnish the people with the books they want, in which they can be interested and absorbed. The "cares that infest the

day" will fold their wings better under the spell of a good story than any other way. I think we need not be frightened when libraries are accused of being only fiction distributors, for it is a library's function to amuse as well as to instruct, and if people will seek amusement through the library, why, so much the better for the people. It is natural that people should feel a curiosity about the newest book and want to read what other people are talking about. This adds also to pleasant and social intercourse, and gives people a common subject of conversation. Fiction is bound to be more and more an interpretation of life by which we see the motives and the currents in other souls. We need not be afraid to supply good wholesome fiction and to use it in establishing social relations with our people, so that the adults as well as the children shall feel a real pleasure in coming to the library.

Many of our libraries are now housed in beautiful buildings, in which case the building as well as the books becomes a means of social influence. If there is need of a home for social intercourse and amusement, the library may legitimately attempt to furnish such a home within its walls. If there are social or study clubs, organized labor guilds or missionary societies, or any other organization, encourage them to meet at the library, find out what they need, let them know that the library is their co-operative partner and so with the schools and industries of which I have not time to speak. The whole building at all times should be managed in the broadest spirit of hospitality, the atmosphere should be as gracious, kindly and sympathetic as one's own home. Then do away with all unnecessary restrictions, take down all the bars, and try to put face to face our friends the books and our friends the people. Introduce them cordially, then stand aside and let them make each other's blessed acquaintance.

Now I am generalizing and leaving it to the others who follow, to specify the various plans they have tried. I only wish to make it clear, that everybody should feel as much at home in the library as if it were built for his especial use, and that the library should be the social center of the town.

It may be that no one of the plans used by other libraries may fit your case, for it is not necessarily good for you because some one else has used it successfully. But with any plan do not expect immediate results, for almost everything that succeeds perma-

nently has a slow, gradual development; that which flashes up quickly, usually dies down suddenly. Be willing to work out a good plan if you have one, and be willing to study your people and all of their interests before you shape your plans.

BOOK SELECTION AND BUYING.

BY MRS. KAREN M. JACOBSON.

Minnesota Public Library Commission.

It has been said that the librarian of the past was a scholar, that the librarian of the present uses the scholarship of others. In book-selection this is peculiarly true since the recent years of organized library effort have placed in the hands of every librarian, whether of the large library or the small, the same lists and aids, compiled by known authorities. With the A. L. A. catalog as a text book, kept to date by the monthly A. L. A. Book list; with the special aids mentioned in the A. L. A. tracts on buying, this side of book-selection is no longer a problem. The question now before the librarian is how to make the best use of the material so freely provided: and to the librarian of the small library who is both chief and assistant in every department of the library this is a problem. A gradually expanding mass of detail work is opening so that memory alone cannot be relied upon, and system in book-buying as well as in other lines, is imperative. No method seems more advantageous than the buying list corresponding to a card catalogue made by mounting annotated clippings, and adding to these the opinions of the librarian or members of the book-committee who have personally examined the books. In most of the libraries of our state the final selection is made by a book-committee. It is not to be expected that the busy men and women who serve the public in this capacity have the time to prepare the essential details of book selection. It is the duty of the librarian to watch the journals, the various bulletins and lists; to check here and there the notices, preparatory to mounting, of such books as she knows are necessary to balance this class in her library, or to supplement that; to replace an out-of-date or a worn-out volume. She cannot fail to win the appreciation of her book-committee by presenting to them a compilation of the necessary information about the desired book. The clippings may be made from the sources already indicated, or from the Cumulative

Book Review Digest which in one article gives extracts from all the journals that have reviewed the book.

Does not the librarian often err in considering lists sent to the library as private property? Would not the book-committee and general public use these aids were they checked with the call numbers of the library, bound in manila or other inexpensive material, and shelved in a place convenient for consultation? So much for the mechanical side of the discussion.

Charles Francis Adams suggested that the function of a small library is that of a reading and consulting library for a small community, containing few scholars and a good many plain people; that before the collection should be confined to 8,000 or 10,000 volumes, inclusive principally of classics, i.e., books of established reputation relating to history, biography, travel and general literature embracing fiction; but that it should devote itself specifically to local publications and records of local interest, by collecting and preserving printed matter in every form relating to that town. He furthermore emphasized that from year to year dead books and decayed fiction should be weeded out and worn classics should be replaced by fresh copies.

To place the various phases of book-buying before the Association, the questions of Mr. Foster, founder of the Standard library movement, have been appropriated, as has also the following definition, which may have weight in the discussion, "A public library is the public serving itself, by means of a collection of books brought together and administered with a view to meeting the various needs of a community." All authorities, in fact, agree that the points to be considered in book-selection are (1) the needs of the community, (2) the capability of the books under consideration to satisfy those needs, and (3) the financial ability of the library to secure what is needed.

Question 1 is a burning brand, "What weight shall we give to the question of newness and fiction and non-fiction?" The demand unquestionably is for new publications and that demand should be met in a reasonable way, and yet as Ruskin has said, "If you read this you cannot read that." If the small library keeps this it cannot keep that, is a paraphrase most significant. Newness is a good thing, but it is not the only thing, and there is new non-fiction as well as new fiction. The statistics of all libraries show that the

demand for fiction exceeds the demand for all other forms of literature combined; and to this there is no well founded objection. The desire to read a story or listen to a story is innate in human beings. In the selection and growth of a library this fact must be recognized; but a demand healthy and natural in itself should be regulated. Neither must the fact be lost sight of that new fiction is not the only fiction. It is agreed, then, that the best works of fiction should be liberally supplied. A good time to see to this is in May and June or November and December, for books are published in waves, and the deluge of current fiction particularly tempts at these periods. It is likewise the time to buy the most attractive editions possible of the standard fiction, that the young people may not be lured to the current fiction to the exclusion of the good old standards whose reading tends toward culture.

What weight shall we give to the question of quality? We librarians of Minnesota are most fortunate in our constituency in that our people demand "quality" in their fiction, in varying grades, to be sure, for they are made of the same elements as other communities but the majority of the people on the farms and in the villages who make up the greater part of our population have not a vitiated taste to overcome but rather a hunger to be fed.

As to what weight shall be given to the question of recreational purpose, two functions of a library are admitted, the educational and the recreational. Why may we not relax sometimes? Not everything that is vital and excellent is of the intense and strenuous order. There are several kinds of "bests" to be included in an ideal public library. The danger, however, is in the natural impulse in each one of us for recreational reading. In adults who have had their discipline in living, this is legitimate, but unless care is taken the men and women of the next generation will have been nourished on recreational reading only. The tendency of the age in the education of the young people at home, in the school, and in the library is toward recreational reading so that the library ought to advocate its position of intellectual influence, to assert its educational function, to prevent its recreational from being carried out of its normal channel.

What weight shall be given to the reader's financial ability? For one thing, voracious readers of current fiction are usually able to buy for themselves. Public rights

must be considered in the demand for books; but this right is to be served and not indulged. The demand for new fiction is now served by many libraries through loan collections; i. e., new novels are purchased by the library and loaned to the public at five cents a week until the book is paid for when it is put on the free list. On the other hand there is no form of literature which becomes so speedily out of date as encyclopedias, dictionaries of dates, biographical and scientific dictionaries, and scientific books; individuals cannot renew these every five years as their usefulness requires, therefore the community demands that the library do so. Because of their expense these books should be selected with greatest care; it is much more important for the small library to get rid of old editions of standard works, to replace them by the latest editions, than that new and additional publications be acquired. This is the class that should have the attention of the librarian as the wave of current fiction recedes, bringing to the notice of the book committee the weak places in the library collection. The expense makes it impossible for the small library to keep books to date on scientific subjects for which reason it is much better to supply this information through scientific periodicals.

Mrs. Fairchild points out another class of individuals who have a right to our notice. She says, "Provide books, which will be used by only a few people if they are likely, by use of the books, to do work of service to society." In the small town, I am inclined to interpret this to include the clergymen and every student who has a special purpose; for it is the great advantage of the small library over the large that personal help may be given individuals.

As to the library's financial ability, in small libraries the book fund is often small, the more that other expenses must first be met. Binding must be considered, the replacing of worn-out books, and the purchase of periodicals. Guides in our card buying-list might wisely read, "Books to be purchased at once," "Books of vivid but temporary interest," "Books to be purchased sometime," and the like. Periodicals should be purchased not merely for present use, but for their future value as reference material; avoid beginning a subscription unless you mean to keep it up. Unless a set is complete in consecutive years it is practically of no use for reference; and if for no reference use, the

binding is an extravagance and the question of store-room will also arise.

There are so many excellent lists for children's books one ought to buy wisely. But it can never be too much emphasized that children do not need new publications but new, attractive editions of the old favorites. And these should be duplicated, duplicated, duplicated, that every child may know them, and know them to re-read them. We adult people lose so much in that we never have time to re-read: let us help the children to know this pleasure. No children's librarian can be a real success who does not know the juvenile books in her library from an actual reading of the books put on her shelves. Should she have time to read no other books, she should read the children's books: next to these, she should read the books about children that she may come to know the nature of the child. The object of bringing Miss Muffet's Christmas party into such prominence at this meeting is that it is a book that helps one to get into one's own childhood, that one may better meet the children of to-day. We cannot make too much effort to urge the little children to come. A tendency in the right direction is placing on the children's tables such books as the Caldecott and other picture books in linen, which are so cheap that when soiled they can be replaced: and a low shelf with "Easy books" will do untold good. Is this not especially true in our own state where to many of our children English is a new language? The fault of the majority of children's books is that they lack the idealistic. In their selection one should remember that children's books should serve two purposes only—present pleasure, and a basis for happy recollection. Having secured these, the gratitude of the children will be assured for this and for all time.

COUNTY EXTENSION.

BY MRS. GERTRUDE B. MCPHERSON.

Librarian, Stillwater Public Library.

It was in March, 1904, before the amendment to the library law of our state was passed, that the librarian of the Minnesota State Library Commission suggested to the board of trustees of our library that it would be well to take a step forward in library work and see what could be done in the way of extending the privileges of the library

to residents of the county. The influence of the library was felt all over the city, but came to a dead halt on the boundary line. Some of the county residents visited us, making a small yearly payment for the use of the books, but the payment of that sum, small as it was, seemed to deter many from coming. So small a sum as a dollar a year counts, of course, where the dollars are few and far between.

It was with the object in view of helping these people to the reading of good books that it was suggested to the members of our board that they confer with the county commissioners in regard to the matter and ask for their help and good wishes in the way of county extension. This plan had been tried successfully in Steele county.

A committee from the board, with the librarian, and the librarian of the Commission appeared before the county commissioners. Few words and very little argument was needed, as they saw in a moment the advantage of having the library open to residents of the county. They also saw the advantage of being early in the field, and with the question as to what sum was needed for the undertaking it was stated that Steele county had appropriated \$300 for that year. "I think we ought to do as well as Steele county," suggested one of the members. With that statement the matter was decided and they then and there voted \$300 for this purpose upon condition that all the privileges of the library be extended to residents of the county, this sum to be turned over immediately to the city and placed under control of the library board.

It was then necessary to advertise the matter a little, so notices were placed in the papers most likely to reach the county and placards placed in many stores and post-offices. Then they began to come, some to find out the working plan of the library, others to sit awhile in the reading room, and others to become patrons and draw the books, and all delighted that they might now enjoy the privileges of our beautiful library. One woman expressed herself as greatly pleased. Her life had been spent on a farm and with the heavy work which it entailed and the raising of a large family of children she said she "did feel the need of a little rest and recreation and was just going to have a good time reading these nice books." She still visits us regularly and carries home a carriage load of books for herself and children. We feel especially

happy in being able to reach that class of people. We now have 137 county borrowers, most of them taking books quite regularly.

Last spring, after the amendment to the library law of our state was passed, allowing library boards to make contracts with county commissioners to pay a certain sum into the library fund each year, our county commissioners seemed to be so well satisfied with the result of the last appropriation, that they voted the same amount for this year, none of the library board being present. This was a subject for congratulation.

To help in the way of placing good reading material before the people of the county the library commission offered to loan to us a number of traveling libraries of 25 or 50 volumes each, to be sent to the more distant parts of the county. This offer was most gratefully accepted, and we soon had the pleasure of sending out our first traveling library to the beautiful village of Afton. We now have four traveling libraries in constant use. We have supplemented the libraries somewhat by sending additional literature in the shape of books which have seen their best days in the library, and last year's magazines. These magazines and books are circulated with the traveling library books.

Perhaps it would be well to say something as to the position held by the library board in regard to the county plan. They all were glad to be able to give residents of the county the full benefit of the library. They were at first a little doubtful about the traveling library plan, fearing that it might entail too large an amount of work upon the librarian and her assistant. They were soon gratified, however, to find that the work was slight, and took but a small amount of time from regular duties. As to ourselves we find great pleasure in the work, and feel that we would like to do much more. Unlike Steele county, the kind of reading matter circulated through the county is largely fiction.

The plan of county extension is one that has been agitating the minds of many librarians of late. Many states have tried the plan successfully. Cincinnati and Van Wert, Ohio, each claim the distinction of being first in the field in the plan of county extension, but the constitution of Indiana provided for the plan of county libraries as early as 1816, and the Wyoming law, passed in 1886, allowed an annual tax levy of one-

eighth to one-half mill for county libraries. Wisconsin has a well organized system.

The Minnesota plan of county extension was first suggested two years ago at the meeting held at Owatonna, and in the following January Owatonna entered the field and secured \$300 from the county commissioners for the privilege of the use of the library for county residents. Up to that time many county residents had asked for the use of the books of the library, but the \$2.00 a year required by the rules of the library seemed to be a drawback, and very few received any benefit from the library. The first year of the county movement was surprisingly successful, there being a circulation of 1940. The State Library Commission loaned to them several traveling libraries, which were placed, at slight expense, in remote settlements. This year they have advanced so rapidly as to be able to furnish their own books, and are supplying six stations with an average of 40 volumes each. In German and Scandinavian communities a few foreign books are included. Thus far this year they have had a circulation of 2274, and by the end of the year it bids fair to have doubled last year's circulation, as the reading season in the country has only just begun. This includes books loaned from the library to county residents and books also loaned from the traveling libraries. It is interesting to note the kind of reading done by the residents of Steele county. Men from the farming localities invariably ask for history, biography or travel. The non-fiction books read by the women are largely religious or ethical, with considerable travel. County patrons are their best readers. The per cent of non-fiction this year has been 35. This year the commissioners of Steele county, appreciating the good work done appropriated \$500.

Recent Developments in County Extension.

The county commissioners of Steele county have increased their appropriation to the Owatonna Public Library to \$600 for the year 1906, on condition that the traveling libraries be continued and further extended.

The county commissioners of Meeker county, at their recent meeting, agreed to appropriate \$150 to the Litchfield Public Library on condition that the privileges of the library should be extended to the entire county. The plan is being well advertised and rules have been modified to meet the requirements of borrowers living in distant

parts of the county. Books may be renewed by postal, and a book of non-fiction may be renewed more than once.

For the benefit of library boards who may wish to consider this plan, an extract from Chapter 257, Laws of 1905, is appended, giving the amendment to the law. The law was framed to suit different conditions, allowing the library board to make contracts with commissioners of adjoining counties or with the governing boards of adjoining townships, when the location of the library or other local conditions make the extension to the entire county impracticable.

"And the board of directors in this chapter provided for, shall have power to admit to the benefit of such library persons not residing within the corporate limits of the city or village under such regulations and conditions as it may prescribe. Said board may also contract with the board of county commissioners of the county in which the library is situated, or of adjacent counties, or with the village trustees or governing body of any neighboring town, city, or village to loan the books of said library, either singly or in traveling libraries, to the residents of said county, town, or village upon such terms as shall be agreed upon in such contract. All such boards or officers are hereby empowered to make contracts for such purposes, and to pay the consideration agreed upon out of the county, town or village treasury."

POPULAR LIBRARY ADVERTISING.

BY LYDIA M. POIRIER.

Librarian, Duluth Public Library.

To spread abroad the riches of the library, helping the people to appreciate that its wealth is for their use and profit and enjoyment, and not merely an ornament, is the duty of the librarian. So we will agree at the beginning that the object of library advertising is to convey to all the community a knowledge of the whole library. The methods which the librarian will adopt to make his library known to the people will depend largely on his idea of the library. The first question then to be asked is, "What is the library for?" and the broadest answer would be that it exists for the purpose of giving people a chance to use books without buying them. But this definition is too broad. We must not forget that while the individual who uses the library does not pay directly for this privilege, all the taxpayers, even those who never enter its doors, pay directly for its maintenance, and even in case of an endowed library the money which supports it is public money intended for public use. It must be his duty, then, to see

that the money intrusted to him is put to such use as is consistent with the public good. It certainly would not be justifiable to expend such funds for dime novels or trashy and immoral literature. There is also grave doubt as to whether public monies should be expended for numerous copies of popular novels which are read to-day and forgotten to-morrow. For the chief function of the library is not recreative, but it is instructive, and the librarian should see that the instruction offered is of the right kind. To offer, through books to those who wish to use them, healthy recreation and instruction based on facts—this is the function of the public library.

Advertising is one of the recognized departments of business. It is not a business side issue or experiment; it is a business necessity to be studied and experimented upon as one studies and experiments upon the other departments of business economy. The importance of judicious advertising should suggest itself to every wide awake librarian in the endeavor to reach every man, woman and child in the city. Ninetenths of the world would rather be interested than educated, and the other tenth likes to be interested too. The librarian, then, must first interest the masses to bring them within her doors, and then attempt to educate them.

The local newspaper is doubtless the best advertising medium. People will read the newspapers—that is what they buy them for. Good advertising is good reading. The librarian who asserts that he does not believe in advertising has only to glance at the sign above his door, and the catalogue and bulletins at his desk. What are these but an advertisement of the location and contents of his library?

In advertising through the newspapers it is well from the very start to have a thorough understanding with the manager of the paper. Ascertain what will be published for you as news, that is, free of charge, and what must be paid for at regular advertising rates. In general, papers are glad to print all you bring them. We have found that material sent in the first of the week is always given space. Know the days that the paper has copy assured it and plan your articles for that time.

Print lists of new books, for use of clubs, on lecture topics, on musical programs, for public school work. Mention every gift received, not once, but many times and in va-

rious ways. Have your monthly report printed, send always to the paper your own copy, do not encourage the reporters to take their own notes, for invariably they note the wrong thing.

It is well to have different members of your staff write on various subjects, thus avoiding sameness. One of my assistants is particularly interested in the Audubon Society and her articles on birds have won praise from all Duluth bird-lovers.

Many libraries make a practice of having separate lists for use of the library, made from type preserved at the printing office. This is possible only through the courtesy of the newspaper management, unless, of course, you have a printing fund.

Headlines are of greatest consideration in connection with any matter for publication. The word *New* serves as a magnet always; "New books on travel at the library," "The latest books on science," sounds alluring and attracts many who would not otherwise notice the list. Some interesting clippings of the Camden, N. J., papers show the result of years of newspaper training in the bulletin line, and the librarian tells me they are a great success.

In publishing reference lists, the one thing to remember above all others is to have them timely. Too much importance cannot be placed on this. Have your reading list on a popular lecture before the lecture, on an author or a noted statesman as soon as his death is announced, on foot-ball or games during the season when many are interested.

The larger the library the more necessary it is to cultivate the newspapers. As influential and wealthy a library as the Chicago Public informs me that they do everything in their power to keep in touch with the newspapers and in every scheme for advertising the newspaper comes first. They allow the newspapers every privilege. The loan of valuable reference books over night, the entire reference force is set to work to answer hurry-up demands, an immense portrait index is at their disposal and the librarian is a personal friend of every man in the newspaper world. The result is that when he wants advertising done they are ready with their columns, and when some reformer begins to advocate library reform, the newspapers "stand pat" for the library. That is the experience of one library, but applies equally to all. So much for the newspapers. I have dwelt particularly on

this point because it is the most important, but not by any means the only method of advertising.

Posters can be placed in public buildings, schools, railroad stations, on the street cars and in factories. Communications can be sent to meetings of trades assemblies and clubs. We gained some helpful friends last year by asking the trade-unions to suggest for purchase, lists of books along their special lines. The result was at least a dozen lists and many new borrowers.

Each fall at the beginning of the school year we send notices to teachers, to the study classes formed in connection with the Y. M. C. A., Y. W. C. A. and normal school, lists of cook books to the cooking classes, etc. We try to have new posters often, some of them are poor, but many are good and they never fail to attract attention. We cultivate the club women always and on all occasions, and in return, like Mellin's food, are "advertised by our loving friends."

Keep before the people always the fact that the library is free. Nothing restricts the working class so much as the fear of money charges. Make it clear to them that there are no charges except for carelessness and you will gain their confidence.

I might go on indefinitely giving you instances of successful experiments in different libraries, but the needs of communities vary and each librarian must work out her own problems according to the needs of her community.

During the past year the Enoch Pratt Library of Baltimore, the Denver Public Library, the Cleveland and Pittsburg libraries have all published helpful articles on work done in the pages of the *Library Journal*.

Of all possible advertising the best perhaps is a cheerful and accommodating atmosphere in the library itself. Treat boy or girl, man or woman, ignorant or learned, gracious or rude with uniform good temper, without condescension, without haste, never pertly. Anticipate all inquiries when possible and put the inquirers at their ease. We must do all that we can to avoid the taint of commercialism. We must remember that we are not dealers in commodities, but are custodians of intellectual values, and that the library should be *first* a center of public happiness and *second* of public education.

LIBRARY ADVERTISING.

BY MISS MABEL STERNER.

Assistant, Winona Public Library.

To have a well equipped library building and have it marked free and public is clearly not enough in this age of haste and advertising. No matter how fine the library, if it is to be much used and used in the best way by those for whom it should have highest educative value, it must constantly keep before them the excellency of its wares. That the books of quality may seem altogether desirable and so become the ones in demand by the many is of course the aim of library advertising.

The Winona papers are anxious to get anything the library may have to offer and one sends a representative to the building daily. Lists of new books as they are received are published, along with occasional reviews of those especially interesting for local reasons, as well as those dealing with topics of the day. The librarian's reports are always given; special lists of books obtainable on affairs of current interest, and any exhibit that may be held in the art room is written up.

The teachers of the different schools, public, normal and Sisters' schools are each given a special card on which may be drawn twelve books to be kept indefinitely, renewal being made without the return of the books. Also books in fifties are sent to the schools at the extreme ends of the city to be given out to the children, the teacher acting as librarian. This serves to interest the children of people prejudiced against the library (as many of the Polish are) or those who have had no interest in taking books on account of the distance or lack of information concerning the library.

The teachers, many of them, encourage their pupils to take out library cards, acting as guarantor, and suggesting that they take out books relating to their geography study, for example, and bring them to the schoolroom. Since the age limit has been removed this summer, the children of the lower grades have been taking out cards and beaming.

The reference room is always open, of course, and the lecture hall is loaned without charge to any organization wishing to hold free lectures; while a nominal sum is asked for paid lectures.

Five special bulletins have been issued by

the Winona library giving lists of books such as the title would indicate.

1. Natural science and useful arts.
2. Profit and recreation for busy people.
3. German books.
4. Polish books.
5. Selected list of books for young readers.

This latter is intended more especially as a guide to parents and teachers to help them in promoting the best reading among children of the grades. All of these bulletins are distributed free of charge.

IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD OF THE STORY-HOUR.

BY MARGARET PALMER.

Librarian, Rochester Public Library.

The place and importance of children in the scheme of library activities must not be unduly magnified. The library is for the whole public and its province is to create as well as to supply demands for its wares.

Its clientele may be almost exclusively students of school and club, and school children.

If this is so, manifestly while meeting as fully as possible the needs of these classes, it should extend its work, reaching out to people of all classes and occupations. This will take time and thought and advertising.

The adult generation now on the ground is to share in the benefits of the library, even while we are training up boys and girls in the use of its treasures. There may be byways and hedges from which people would gladly come up to our feast of good things.

A New Jersey librarian, living, but yet of blessed memory, would have us find a place in our hearts for the people even if only a handful, in our special community, who can read no English and because of age and a foreign tongue will always be strangers in a strange land. For these a small collection of books in the mother tongue would be a great boon. If you are embarrassed as to the method of cataloguing a set of books in the Lithuanian, Hottentot or any other language I venture she could find you a way out of the difficulty.

Again, the cry of the butcher, the baker and the candle stick maker has come to our ears. I have no doubt every librarian here has read and remembered an article in the

July, 1905, *Library Journal*, entitled "Libraries for Men." If you have not, let me lend you the journal of that date. Here is, it seems to me, a just arraignment of the public library.

Until a library can employ a special librarian for the children, and this place should be filled as soon as possible after securing the services of a competent librarian, the work for and with the children should not be unduly emphasized, for the public library has not yet found itself. It has grown and multiplied as the grain of mustard seed in the few years just past. Very much has been done in systemization and organization. Books have been collected and suitably and even sumptuously housed; now how can they be made useful to all the people of a community? Can the work be broadened so that the resources of the library not only supplement the work of the pupil in the grades, the teacher and the student of school or club, but meet the needs of men and women in their daily work as well?

The average public library cannot supply technical books for professional men. These must be found in special and professional libraries on law, medicines, etc., but it can and should supply books to the builder, the carpenter, the poultry and fruit-raiser, the cabinetmaker, the engineer, the house and carriage painter; and it should have a magazine to meet the demands of those who want the latest information on arts and crafts of different sorts. Just as surely as a club member can find a late book or periodical article on Tolstoi or Maeterlinck, just so surely should a young horse trainer or hat trimmer or journalist find an up-to-date article on his specialty.

Letting our minds dwell upon these things and other things, the work with the children will be seen in its true perspective.

Looking broadly and intelligently, and it may be even sympathetically, over our library field of endeavor to be, at certain milestones in the journey; noting the waste places and possibly the over-cultivated tracts; plan for large things, though the beginning must be small. Buy books to meet an expressed and patent need, create a need for books which stand unused on the shelves. To-day interest the boy who comes with the electrician to remedy a fault in the lighting in some of the less technical electrical books. To-morrow suggest county extension as a subject for debate in a country school debating society.

With the balance and poise which characterizes the big outlook, which is not unduly concerned in magnifying the statistical report for the next board meeting, the children's work and the place of the story-hour in it will find its place. It will not be a small place.

What is the purpose of the story-hour? How can it justify its place among the activities of a very small library? Why does it seem a faddish thing? Why is it belittled by some able librarians? Papers are written entitled "Common sense and the story-hour," "Rational work with children," etc. Has any uncommon sense or irrational work been in evidence? If there has been anything less than sanity and reason used, it is no great crime. We have yet to find ourselves and are not discouraged. It is vastly better to do something and make an uncommon lot of mistakes than not to undertake. Possibly the story-hour work has not been carefully thought out and planned at all times or a pyrotechnic display may have blinded the eyes to the real outcome of the effort expended. Even there a brave show and a rocket stick mean more than no flash of light. Personally, I believe this hour may be made a means of opening the hearts of children to whole classes of literature before untried and unknown. The strength of this work is in the appeal to the heart. Gain a real joy set before one's eyes and mountains are climbed and seas are swam; Herculean tasks are feather-light.

Have you read the homely little story of the boy, who gave his week's allowance to buy a turkey foot, because in some marvelous way, just one cord had to be pulled and, presto! the whole foot moved. So many things move when you get the right pull. The story hour may be the pull. Here is the myth of Norseman, Kelt and Briton—the materials of poetry, art, song. The historic sense has its beginnings in myth and folklore. The great epics of the past were once recited in the open about a fire of faggots, of long-houred nights, beneath a star-lit sky. How might not the study of history be illumined by a light that never was on sea nor land, by drawing on the stories of all the ages, following the connection into historic biography, grouping about this poetry, art, romance. But some one will bid me pause, and suggest that this is not common sense and sanity.

To increase the use of non-fiction in the children's room—this is a business proposi-

tion. So much on nature work, so much of biography and history, and the useful arts and the rest. Here are books on the stories of the great operas; here are books of great literary value. To bring the book and the child together is the thing. If we take a birth-day as the nucleus of the story hour, every child of a large group wants a book on that very day on that very man. He cannot get it and his interest is soon gone. We are not able to duplicate the books in sufficient numbers to meet the immediate draft. How do you manage this in your library? If we celebrate the Franklin centenary in January, can we manage to secure results of permanent value by the use of the Franklin material in our libraries? Will you spend many hours of thought in planning and making a bulletin? If so, it ought to be of use on similar occasions for years to come. Will you be justified in buying more books on the subject and duplicating those you may have? Perhaps this man could be studied so that an interest in his diplomatic career would be aroused. Books on experimental electricity, early printing presses and the costumes of Colonial days might furnish contributions to this anniversary. If, in some way, by reaching out and allied subjects, we could avoid congestion—spreading the interest over broader fields of reading, the effects of the story-hour might be carried off gently and innocuously through these many and adequate channels and not sweep us away with the deluge of demands for books, the failure to supply which is a matter of discouragement to the child and the librarian as well.

I am skeptical regarding the benefit derived by the small child from the reading of "Nature" as presented in the average "Nature book." Myrtle Reed's "Book of clever beasts" is much more readable, and in the matter of accuracy there is but little choice, I fear. The work done in the school-room is usually very well worth while (as far as a limited observation can speak), stimulating an interest in out of doors. The time devoted to moth and butterfly study would be better spent in studying the habits of the live insects than in collecting and mounting specimens, and the former can perhaps be better done in the school-room where the daily gathering of the children enables them to watch each stage of the game of life from cocoon to egg.

In taking account of the boy, we must reckon with the hero story. If he has had

no intimacy with yellow literature the field is ours—the material of the right sort in our hands. While there is plenty of gore, the mythical, semi-mythical and historic hero fought for ideals that were worth the shedding of blood.

The Mosely commission was not half-right when it criticized the American educational system (in the primary and grammar grades) for turning out boys less aggressive than the stuff needed to take up and carry on the conflict of life. The hero-story will help to remedy this defect and may, by a process of evolution, lead up to the study of the heroes of peace, whose deeds have been written up by Mr. Roosevelt, Chas. T. Hill and others. We don't want to furnish premises for the conclusions drawn by one of Myra Kelley's "Little Citizens," who, after the celebration of Washington's birthday, could hardly understand why the keeper of a gambling house was imprisoned for shooting in the leg a policeman who tried to arrest him, while Washington, who killed "mans" by the hundred, should be a hero-exalted of the nation. "In a country where stands flowers and trees and all good things" to quote the "Little Citizen" such distinctions are puzzling.

Having pretty successfully avoided committing myself as to the legitimate field of the story-hour, the manner of conducting it might properly be touched upon.

Even in a small village there is so much good human material if you can only locate it and use it. Only day before yesterday the girl who likes to investigate field flowers unconsciously revealed herself. If she can be induced to have a pleasing voice and soft waving locks of hair such as blew about the face of Emmy Lou's "dear teacher" the combination of these, with much sanity and long-headedness in the librarian, will be an irresistible one in a series of story-hours.

LIST OF BOOKS SUITABLE FOR CHRISTMAS GIFTS.

(Compiled by Miss Margaret Palmer, Librarian, Rochester Public Library.)

This list was chosen chiefly to meet the need for picture books for little children, combining literary quality and artistic merit with cheapness, as far as the third quality could be found in combination with the first two. The books were purchased by the

Rochester library for use in their own children's room, and were exhibited during the last week in November, so that parents might examine them with a view to purchasing Christmas gifts for their children.

- Alcott, L. M.—*The candy country*. Little, 50c.
—*A Christmas dream*. Little, 50c.
- Andrews, Jane—*Seven little sisters*; illus. in color. Ginn, \$1.00.
- Bannerman, Helen—*Story of little Black Mingo*; illus. in color. Stokes, 40c.
—*Story of Quibbo*; illus. in color. Stokes, 40c.
—*Story of little Sambo*; illus. in color. Stokes, 40c.
- Caldecott, Randolph—*Picture books*. 16 in all. Warne, paper, 25c each.
- Copeland, Walter—*Book of little J. D.'s*. Dutton, 25c.
—*Book of Mandar infants*; illus. by Robinson. Dutton, 25c.
—*Book of the fair*. Dutton, 25c.
- Crane, Walter—*Bluebeard's picture book*. Lane, \$1.25.
—*Cinderella's picture book*. Lane, \$1.25.
—*This little pig*; his picture book. Lane, \$1.25.
—*Red Riding Hood's picture book*. Lane, \$1.25.
—*Toy books*. 16 in all. Lane, 25c each.
- Deming, E. W. and T. O.—*Children of the wild*. Stokes, \$1.00.
—*Little Indian folk*; illus. in color. Stokes, \$1.25.
—*Little red people*; illus. in color. Stokes, \$1.25.
—*Little brothers of the west*. Stokes, \$1.00.
- Dodge, M. M.—*New baby world*; illus. Century, \$1.20.
- Fletcher, R. H.—*Marjorie and her papa*. Century, 80c.
- Francis, J. G.—*Book of cheerful cats and other animated animals*; illus. Century, \$1.00.
- Gerson, Virginia—*Happy heart family*; illus. in color. Fox, \$1.00.
- Grover, E. O.—*Sunbonnet babies' primer*; illus. in color. Rand, 40c.
- Greenaway, Kate—*A apple pie*; illus. in color. Routledge, 80c.
—*A day in a child's life*. illus. in color. Routledge, 80c.
—*Marigold garden*; illus. in color. Routledge, \$1.20.
—*Mother Goose village*. Warne, 75c.
—*Under the window*; illus. in color. Routledge, 80c.
- Hopkins, W. J.—*Sandman*. Page, \$1.20.
—*Sandman, more farm stories*. Page, \$1.20.
- Jewett, S. O.—*Play days*. Houghton, \$1.20.
- Johnson, Margaret—*A bunch of keys*. Dutton, \$1.00.
- Kelman, J. H.—*Stories from Chaucer*; illus. (Told to the children series.) Dutton, 50c.
- Kingsley, Charles—*The heroes*; told to the children by Mary Macgregor; illus. (Told to the children series.) Dutton, 50c.
—*The water-babies*; illus. (Told to the children series.) Dutton, 50c.
- Lang, Jeanie—*Stories from the Faerie queen*; illus. (Told to the children series.) Dutton, 50c.
- Pierson, C. D.—*Tales of a poultry farm*. Dutton, \$1.00.
- Potter, Beatrix—*Tale of Peter Rabbit*; illus. Warne, 50c.
—*Tale of Squirrel Nutkin*; illus. Warne, 40c.
- Poulsen, Emilie—*Through the farm-yard gate*; illus. Lothrop, \$1.25.
- Sage, Betty—*Rhymes of real children*; illus. in color. Fox, \$1.50.
- Williston, T. P.—*Japanese fairy tales retold*; illus. in color. Rand, 75c.

Linen Picture Books.

- Book of ships*. Dutton, 60c.
- Book of soldiers*. Dutton, 60c.
- Book of the farm*. Dutton, 60c.
- Book of trains*. Dutton, 60c.
- Circus book*. Dutton, 60c.

For Older Children.

- Baldwin, James—*Story of Roland*; illus. in color. Scribner, \$1.20.
- Burnett, F. H.—*Little princess*; illus. in color by Betts. Scribner, \$2.00.
- Burrell, C. B.—*A little cook book for a little girl*. Estes, 75c.
- Cervantes—*Don Quixote*; retold by Judge Parry; illus. by Crane. Lane, \$1.50.

Crothers, S. M.—Miss Muffet's Christmas party; illus. Houghton, \$1.00.
Forsythe, Clarence—Old songs for young America; illus. in color by Blanche Ostertag. Doubleday, \$1.60.
Hawthorne, Nathaniel—Wonder book; illus. in color by Crane. Houghton, \$2.00.
Kingsley, Charles—The heroes; illus. by Robinson. Dutton, \$2.00.
Paine, A. B.—A little garden calendar for boys and girls; illus. Altemus, \$1.00.
Pleasant tragedies of childhood; verses by Burges Johnson and illus. by Cory. Harper, \$1.60.
Richards, L. E.—Golden windows. Estes, \$1.00.
Stevenson, R. L.—A child's garden of verses; illus. in color by Mars. Rand, 50c.
—A child's garden of verses; illus. in color by Jessie Wilcox Smith. Scribner, \$2.50.
Thackeray, W. M.—The rose and the ring; illus. Putnam, 50c.

AIDS FOR LIBRARIANS.

A. L. A. Booklist.—Beginning with the October number the book-list will be enlarged and, beside the current buying lists for small libraries and for larger libraries, it will contain official news and announcements of the A. L. A. and of its committees and affiliated organizations, including the bulletins of the committee on book buying and information regarding the publications of the A. L. A. Publishing Board. It will also contain from time to time select bibliographies and special reference lists. The November number contains an excellent Christmas Bulletin, prepared by Charlotte C. Gibson, Child's Librarian, Washington County Free Library, Hagerstown, Maryland. Reprints of this list will be furnished at 5 cents a copy or \$1.25 per 100. Orders should be sent before Dec. 10th to A. L. A. Publishing Board, 10 1-2 Beacon St., Boston.

The Commission sends the Book-list to all librarians and members of book committees, and librarians are urged to notify the Commission of any changes in this committee, in order that the mailing list may be correct, and that the list may reach all those who have to do with book selection.

Special Reading Lists.—A special reading list on Christmas compiled by the Cleveland Public Library is supplied by the H. W. Wilson Co., Minneapolis, at 10 cents, bound in paper and 15 cents in flexible cloth. Other lists on Thanksgiving Day, Abraham Lincoln, George Washington, Memorial Day, New Year's Day, Arbor Day and Easter may be had at 5 cents each, in paper, and 10 cents in flexible cloth.

Books for Young People.—The Winona Free Public Library has recently issued Class List No. 3, Books for young people, and Bulletin No. 5, Selected list of books for

young readers. These lists will be sent to any one, free of charge, upon request.

Goop Bookmark.—Miss Hewins' already famous Goop verse has been printed by the H. W. Wilson Co. as a very attractive bookmark. They may be obtained for 25 cents per 100, or \$2.15 per 1000.

Printed Cards.—Houghton, Mifflin & Co. will furnish Library of Congress cards without charge for all their publications to any library which buys the books. Ask them to put you on their mailing list for these, and you will receive a list of the books as they are issued, with author card for each. You are asked to check the titles of the books you have bought, or expect to buy, and return the list. Additional cards necessary for books checked will then be sent.

BOOKS FOR SALE OR EXCHANGE.

The following is added to the list published in the October number of *Library Notes and News*:

Larned—History for ready reference. 1895. 5v.

COMMISSION NOTES.

Picture Bulletins.—The picture bulletins exhibited at Red Wing have been given to the Commission by the libraries of Owatonna and Duluth, and these may be loaned to any library in the state for cost of transportation. Among the bulletins are found an interesting series on Indians which have been used by several libraries in celebrating Indian Day, also bulletins for Thanksgiving, Christmas and other special days.

St. Nicholas League Pictures.—The drawings made by the children of the St. Nicholas League visited fourteen libraries during the winter of 1904-05, but there are still a good many libraries which have not had this exhibit. Write to the Commission at once if you wish to borrow them, so that the circuit may be arranged for the winter.

Original Drawings.—A dozen of the original drawings for "Miss Muffet's Christmas party," by Samuel McChord Crothers, have been loaned to the Commission by the artist, Miss Olive M. Long. The drawings are charming in themselves and should be of special interest in Minnesota, because Miss Long is a Minnesota woman. The children at Stillwater have been enjoying these pictures during November, and have learned much by copying them. Librarians should

make application for them as early as possible.

Annual Reports.—During December the blanks for annual reports will be sent to each library which is organized under the state law, which law requires this report to the Commission. Librarians are requested to fill out the reports and send them in as soon as possible after Jan. 1st.

Summer School.—It was announced last spring that the Summer School would be omitted in 1906, but so many enquiries have been received that this decision may be reconsidered. If there are a sufficient number of applications from those holding library positions in Minnesota, the course will be offered as usual. Those who would like to take the training during the summer of 1906, and any former students, who would like a supplementary course are requested to write to the Commission at once, so that plans may be made.

Mrs. Lillian C. Goodenow of the Class of 1905, has taken a position as secretary to Mr. W. P. Cutter, librarian of Forbes Library, Northampton, Mass.

TRAVELING LIBRARIES.

With this number of the bulletin we are beginning a traveling library column, addressed chiefly to the librarians in charge of traveling libraries. The success of these libraries rests largely with you. With our increased appropriation for this year, we have made a considerable addition to the number of books and we want to make this a banner year for the traveling libraries in Minnesota, so that we can show the legislature that the money has been well spent.

Will you not help us in the first place by keeping careful records of the number of readers and the amount of circulation? By circulation, we mean the total number of times the books have been read, and this number is obtained by adding the total of names written on the charging cards. Read over the rules for circulation which are sent with each library, and which give careful directions as to method of keeping records.

Are you doing everything you can to make the library well-known in your community and to have it used to its full capacity? We furnish placards with blanks to show where the library is to be kept and the hours and days of opening. Have these been posted in conspicuous places, so that

every one knows where the library is, when he can get books and that it is free to all? Do you advertise the library in the local papers, giving the list of the books, or better still, good notes on special books at frequent intervals?

Catalogs with brief annotations which are designed to awaken an interest in each book are sent with the libraries. Are these distributed to each family in your community so that every one knows what books are to be had?

Do all your borrowers know that they may have two books at a time provided only one is fiction? Our reports have always shown that fiction is more popular than any other class of books, and we hope that by this means readers may discover that many other books are equally interesting and much more worth while.

New Libraries.—Ten new lists of 50 volume libraries have been made up this fall with reading lists on the following subjects: South America, Russia, Scandinavia, Scotland, the Far East, School and College Life, Middle Ages, Minnesota, French Revolution, Northern Seas and Lands. In addition to these, three juvenile libraries of 25 volumes each have been made up; one for boys, another for girls and a third for younger readers, including many books for easy reading. There has been great demand for these, and other juvenile lists will undoubtedly follow.

Twenty-seven new traveling library stations have been established this fall. The following is a list, giving name of librarian and place where the library is kept. Many of these places are at some distance from the railroad in isolated communities, and with one exception there is no library whatever.

Ashley, near Sauk Center. Margaret von Levern, Lib'n. School building and residence during vacation.

Balaton. Current Lake Library Association of Ellsborough and Skandia Townships. P. A. Pederson, Lib'n. Store.

Beaulieu, White Earth Agency. Edith D. White, Lib'n. In government school. This library is loaned particularly for the teachers in the Indian school and the mixed bloods who live at the agency, a band of educated people who are cut off from many privileges.

Belgrade. W. L. Reine, Lib'n. Store.

Beltrami. F. C. Johnson, Lib'n. Office of Beltrami Graphic.

Carver. Mrs. George R. Greaves, Lib'n. Public school building.

Cedar, North Star Library Association for East Bethel and vicinity. Mrs. J. W. Martin, Lib'n. Residence.

Cunningham. Catherine Cunningham, Lib'n. Residence, near postoffice.

Dean Lake. Mrs. John D. Patten, Lib'n. Residence.

Deer River. Mae M. Eastman, Lib'n. Public school building.

Emily, Allen Township. H. G. Butterfield, Lib'n. Residence of town clerk.

Goodhue and Belle Creek Townships. Francis O'Reilly, Lib'n. Residence.

Green Isle. Katherine Myers, Lib'n. Store.

Kensington. A. H. Christensen, Lib'n. Hardware store.

Kerrick and Vicinity, including Duquette. Mrs. M. McGrath, Lib'n. Residence.

Lamberton. Ladies' Progressive Club Association. J. A. Anderson, Lib'n. Drug and jewelry store.

Madelia. Riverdale and Hanska Townships. Oscar Skarhol, Lib'n. Residence.

Magnolia. Mrs. A. W. Bird, Lib'n. Residence.

Morgan. Carrie Hartwick, Lib'n. Public telephone office.

Nashwauk. Mary Cummings, Lib'n. School building.

Northome. Beulah Brannon, Lib'n. Office of Northome Record.

Princeton. Greenwood Library Association. Phoebe M. Johnson, Lib'n. Office.

Red Lake Falls. A. Reichert, Lib'n. Drug store.

Redwood Falls. Miss Louise Fernald, Lib'n. Public library.

Roseau. T. D. Thorson, Lib'n. First National Bank.

Sturgeon Lake. Amy E. Blank, Lib'n. Postoffice building.

Foreign books.—Because of the increased demand for books in the Scandinavian and German languages, a large number have been purchased, and on request a few are added to each library without extra charge.

Study Libraries.—Books for use of study clubs are being supplied in accordance with the demand. Clubs asking for material are requested to send their programs to the Commission, that the librarian may choose the books to better advantage. Books have

already been sent to thirty different clubs in twenty-five towns.

Six collections of books and magazines have been loaned to the high schools belonging to the High School Debating League. A collection has been sent to each congressional district outside the Twin Cities, and the district directors have arranged a circuit for the books so that all may have equal benefits.

Home Libraries.—For the benefit of residents in isolated communities where it is impossible to secure the signatures of ten tax-payers, a home library of ten volumes is loaned to a single family. The borrower pays transportation charges both ways and there is no other expense. The borrower is required to sign the application and to secure the signature of a school or county officer. The libraries are made up to suit each individual case. Five libraries of this kind have been loaned, two consisting of general reading, one of Scandinavian books, one of German history, and another a special study library on graded school subjects with supplementary volumes on United States History.

NEWS OF MINNESOTA LIBRARIES.

Albert Lea. The Ladies' Auxiliary Committee of Albert Lea College has presented a mission clock to the public library.

Austin. The library has been opened every Sunday afternoon from 2 to 5 since last June, Mrs. C. L. West, a member of the board, having volunteered to take charge for the present. An Indian exhibit was held at the library early in November, and was a great success. At least 500 visited the library and the number of Indian relics and curios which had been collected was a surprise to every one.

Bemidji. The Ladies Library Association has arranged for a lecture course of six numbers for the benefit of the library.

Blue Earth. Mrs. Emma R. Sweet has resigned her position to become stenographer in the office of the Public Library Commission, and Miss Alta Cummings has been elected to succeed her.

Cannon Falls. A Library and Reading Room Association has been organized with a membership fee of \$1.00 a year. Seventy two members are already enrolled. The rooms over the post-office in connection with

the rest room will be occupied for another year.

Faribault. The reading room is now open on Sundays from 3 to 5 p. m., a number of public-spirited citizens having volunteered to take charge of the room.

Fergus Falls. The library board has decided to allow the woman's club the use of the lecture room of the new Carnegie building for the regular meetings of the club. The new building is nearing completion and will soon be ready for use. Mr. Vernon A. Wright, the architect of the building, has given a bas relief of Hiawatha to be placed over the front entrance.

Grand Rapids. The corner stone of the Carnegie Library was laid September 29th, the Masons having charge of the ceremonies. Hon. C. C. McCarthy gave an address in which he reviewed the history of Grand Rapids, and emphasized the importance of the erection of this educational building in the development of the town.

Howard Lake. Commencing with October 1st the reading-room will be open to the public every night during the week. The association is in a flourishing condition, with \$60 in the treasury after all bills are paid.

Hutchinson. The entertainment course for the coming winter promises to be the best which has ever been given, and the sale of seats has been very gratifying.

Litchfield. Beginning with November 1st the reading-room will be open every Sunday from 2:30 to 5:30. The first Sunday opening was well patronized. As already mentioned, the county commissioners have appropriated \$150 to the library, and the privileges of the library have been extended to all residents of Meeker county. Miss Amy Pratt, who attended the Summer School for Library Training, has completed the card catalog in a very creditable manner.

Mankato. The public library has opened a branch in West Mankato. The books will be located in a general store owned by C. F. Hallman, a member of the board, who has agreed to take charge of them. The citizens of North Mankato, which is just across the river, in Nicollet county, have also petitioned for the use of the library, and the board has offered them the privilege upon payment of \$200 for the first year. The board is planning for the completion of the auditorium in the basement, a build-

ing fund for that purpose being gradually laid aside.

Mapleton. Miss Ella Quinn has resigned her position as librarian, and Miss Gertrude Roller has been elected to succeed her.

Minneapolis. The new children's room will be opened about January 1st. At the same time a children's library station will be opened in the kindergarten room of Riverside Chapel. The Pillsbury Library, on the East side, will hereafter be open from 8:30 a. m. to 9 p. m. A new children's room will be opened, thus giving more room in the reading and reference rooms, where better accommodations can be given to the university and high school students. A complete dictionary catalog will be made during the winter.

Monticello. An entertainment for the benefit of the library was given October 27th. Booths representing Germany, Turkey, Italy and Japan were artistically arranged and the guests were served with national refreshments at each booth by ladies in costume. An excellent musical program was given.

Morris. The Morris Public Library of about 3,000 volumes has been classified by the librarian of the commission and was reopened to the public November 11th. The contract for more shelving has been let, as it was found that there was no room for growth. The reading-room will be opened Sunday afternoon with volunteer assistance. A number of the ladies are also arranging for a story hour for the small children on Saturday afternoon. A renting collection of late fiction will soon be established. A handsome clock has been given to the library by the ladies of a mothers' club, which formerly existed in Morris.

Owatonna. The county commissioners have increased the appropriation for the library to \$600 for the year 1906, and the traveling libraries will be extended. Arrangements have already been made to place one of these at Merton. A small collection of books is to be placed in the Commercial Club rooms for the use of those who spend their evenings there.

Park Rapids. The librarian of the commission met with the board November 14th to present the matter of re-organizing the library. The board decided to have the books classified, and the work will be done later in the winter. The library contains nearly 2,000 volumes.

Pipestone. The public library will hereafter be open both afternoon and evening on three days each week. Patrons are also to be allowed to take two books on a card, provided that only one is fiction.

Red Wing. A document room has recently been fitted up in the basement, where these books are now much more accessible than formerly.

Redwood Falls. The first of a series of lectures for the benefit of the library was given November 27th by Father Vaughan.

Rochester. An exhibit of books suitable for Christmas gifts to children was held at the library during Thanksgiving week. The list which is one of unusual interest appears on another page. The librarian, Miss Palmer, offers a course in library training to apprentices as an equivalent for several hours of practical work daily for six months. Duplicate copies of recent popular novels are to be loaned for 5 cents a week.

St. Paul. A substation of the public library has been opened at the Neighborhood House, a social settlement on the West St. Paul flats. Other requests for branches are being considered. The new finding list for fiction has been issued, and work on the lists for other classes is going forward.

St. Paul—Minnesota Historical Library. Miss Emma Hawley, of the Historical Library at Madison, Wis., is engaged in classifying the library of the Historical Society.

Sleepy Eye. The library board has arranged for an excellent course of entertainments for the coming season.

Staples. A reading-room has been opened by the Civic Improvement League. Staples is a division point on the Northern Pacific road, and there are a great many men without homes who are in need of a place to spend their spare time. Two pleasant rooms have been attractively furnished and

well supplied with magazines. The rooms are open every afternoon and evening in charge of Mrs. F. S. Fowler. A traveling library will be located in the rooms, and a book social is to be held to start a permanent collection of books.

Stillwater. Dr. Richard Burton gave a lecture on the "Modern novel" at the library auditorium, October 7th, under the auspices of the Woman's Reading Club. Mrs. McPherson, the librarian, is planning to have a number of talks for the school children during the winter.

Thief River Falls. The Ladies' Library Association has supported the library for a number of years, the city council paying the salary of the librarian. The library project will be submitted to vote at the coming election, when it is hoped that the library property will be turned over to the city and a tax levied for its support.

Wadena. The library association presented a home talent play for the benefit of the library the last of November.

Wells. The furniture for the library rooms has been completed and put in place, and the committee are at work upon the selection of books.

Willmar. The Great Northern Railroad has given the use of a room over the depot for a reading-room for the railroad men. A ball will be given to raise money for furnishings.

Winona. A story hour will be held every Saturday morning, pupils from certain grades being invited on each occasion. Miss Mabel Sterner has charge of the work, and the children have been delighted and interested from the start.

Worthington. An exhibit of Indian relics and curios was held at the library October 6th and 7th.